Please replace paragraph ~~[0028]~~ [0031] with the following amended paragraph: BB 9-3-09

If Rd [3] is a logic 1, register reference Rd 232 encodes one of a second group of registers, preferably registers R8-R15. In this mode, the processor 102 generally examines the state of one or more bits, but not necessarily all bits, in register Rd. As such, the immediate value V is used to mask the contents of register Rd 232. This may be accomplished in the preferred embodiment by logically AND'ing register Rd with the immediate value V on a bit-by-bit basis. The mask (immediate value V) may comprise 0's in the bit places that are not of interest, and 1's in the bit places that are of interest. Once the contents of register Rd 232 are masked, the bits corresponding to the bit positions of the mask having a 1 are examined to determine whether they are a 0 or a 1. If the contents of register Rd, after masking, are not all 0's, then the next instruction following the test and skip instruction 228~~238~~ is skipped as described above. If, however, the masked register Rd is all 0's, the subsequent instruction is executed and not skipped.

Please add the following paragraph after paragraph [0033]:

Figure 6 shows a method 600 in accordance with embodiments of the invention. As shown in Figure 6, the method 600 comprises executing a test and skip instruction that includes an immediate value and a reference to a register (block 602). The method 600 then comprises performing a comparison using the immediate value and a register value stored in the referenced register (block 604). Finally, the method 600 comprises executing or skipping a subsequent instruction based on the comparison (block 606).